

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 07429 301125Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 301010Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6282

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MEISSNER, CHARLES) (MOOSE, RICHARD), APER, CB

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VIEWS ON HEADSPACE

REF: PHNOM PENH 7291

1. IN SPECIAL SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR AND ADCM WHICH THEY REQUESTED TO DISCUSS HEADSPACE PROBLEM, MOOSE AND MEISSNER MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEWS THAT EMBASSY COMPLEMENT OF 216 AND PRACTICE OF MOVING PERMANENT PERSONNEL OUT OF THE COUNTRY VIOLATES SPIRIT OF THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT.

2. WE NOTED THAT PRESENT COMPLEMENT OF 216 ACTUALLY INCLUDES LONG-TERM TDY PERSONNEL AND THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO KEEP "HEADSPACING TO MINIMUM." WHEN THEY PERSISTED IN THEIR VIEWS, WE PROVIDED THEM GIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS WE HAVE MADE IN REGARD TO LOWERING PERMANENT COMPLEMENT AND ELIMINATING HEADSPACING (REFTEL). MOOSE AND MEISSNER INDICATED THAT ACTION OF THIS SORT WOULD PROBABLY BE REQUIRED TO AVOID CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO STRENGTHEN LANGUAGE OF AMENDMENT.

3. CALLING ATTENTION TO THE INCREASING NEED FOR REFUGEE RELIEF ASSISTANCE, WE NOTED THAT VOLUNTEER AGENCIES ARE APPROACHING THE LIMIT OF THE ACTIVITIES THEY CAN SUPPORT WITH PERSONNEL PAID BY THE AGENCIES. WE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT SOME MEANS BE FOUND TO EXCLUDE FROM THE HEADSPACE CEILING VOLUNTEER AGENCY PERSONNEL WHOSE SALARIES ARE PAID BY USG

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FUNDS. THIS WOULD PERMIT AN EXPANSION OF VOLAG ACTIVITIES.

MOOSE AND MEISSNER AGREED THAT THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT PROFITABLY BE
DISCUSSED WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
DEAN

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